



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: December 17, 2024

In Control: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

DEPARTMENT: Transportation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Catherine Hernandez

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Award for the Quick Builds for Safe Communities program.

SUMMARY:

Briefing on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Award for the Quick Builds for Safe Communities program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a part of the Bike Network Plan (BNP), the City of San Antonio's Transportation Department submitted an application to the Safe Streets for All federal grant program. The grant application was submitted to help leverage and fund elements of the BNP through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Transportation Department successfully applied for and was awarded a FY 24 Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Planning and Demonstration grant.

The SS4A Grant will be used to develop and establish a “quick build” program, which will allow for the Transportation and Public Works Departments to quickly deliver projects that meet the goals of the Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP) and the BNP. The quick build program, titled “Quick Builds for Safe Communities” will have three phases: Identification, Demonstration, and Evaluation.

During the Identification phase, the Transportation Department will develop a Quick Build Guide. This Guide will be a rubric for identifying quick build demonstration locations, improvements that can be applied, and establish a performance evaluation methodology. The Guide will also aid in the selection of five (5) pilot demonstration locations. This will be accomplished by evaluating the Vision Zero Action Plan’s and BNP’s goals, while also basing the selection on safety, need, quick build applicability, and capital project readiness. Lastly, the Guide will also include replicable engineering concepts for the quick build demonstrations at 95% design.

Following the Identification phase, the Demonstration Phase begins the implementation of pilot quick build projects in San Antonio. The Quick Build for Safe Communities program allows for five (5) pilot demonstration projects. Each project will be installed incrementally over a three (3) month period by the Transportation Department and Public Works. Low-cost materials, like flex posts, wheel stops, and paint will be used. The project’s locations will be monitored over a given period, ranging from six (6) months to two (2) years. The Transportation Department will also partner with local research institutions to collect safety data and observe behavior by all modes of transportation. Public input will be accounted for during this phase through various methods, such as surveys and written feedback.

During the Evaluation Phase, the Transportation Department will evaluate the data and public input collected during the Demonstration Phase. This information will be used to examine the performance of the demonstration project to its baseline, which is the location prior to the demonstration project. Also, the information will be used to make refinements to the Quick Build Guide, VZAP, and BNP, as well as determine if a more permanent solution is needed at that project’s location. The Quick Build Guide will then be finalized with replicable designs, performance data, crash modification factors, cost estimates for the implementation of quick build solutions, and implementation time frames.

The goal of the Quick Build program is to provide improvements that increase safety, decrease injuries and fatalities on our roadways for all users, and decrease unsafe actions, like speeding, at the fraction of the cost and time of constructing permanent infrastructure. This also allows for both the Transportation Department and Public Works Department to evaluate other improvements in real time and determine the proper, permanent infrastructure improvement.

In August of 2024, the Transportation Department was awarded \$650,000 for this program under the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant. The Federal share of the grant is \$520,000, while the Local Government share is \$130,000. Once the Federal Grant Agreement documentation is complete, the Transportation Department will take the Grant Agreement and other related documents to City Council for approval. We will then federally procure a consultant, then begin

the Quick Builds for Safe Communities program.

ISSUE:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.